



NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

What a night for our nation's people and our health care system. After a week of dangerous gamesmanship, common sense prevailed when Senators John McCain, Susan Collins, and Lisa Murkowski joined with all Senate Democrats to defeat Mitch McConnell's latest repeal plan, which would have ripped healthcare from millions of Americans.

I ran into Senator McCain on Wednesday night and we talked about our shared love of New Hampshire. The next night he stood up for Granite Staters by protecting their health care. He and our two great Senators, Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan, together with 48 of their colleagues, did the right thing and stood up for the people. Last night, in front of the Capitol, I spoke to a rally of just a few of the millions of Americans who have fought for what once seemed almost impossible – the defeat of this terrible health care repeal. I told the activists that we were all speaking on behalf of the many who weren't able to be in D.C. last night, including so many people in New Hampshire who have shared their stories with me over the past six months. Now, I hope we will be able to work in a bipartisan manner to improve health care, and I ask all of you to stay engaged in that effort.

Extending Choice for veterans

Today I voted "yes" on a bipartisan bill to extend the Veterans Choice Program for six months and make critical investments in VA health care, which passed the House with a unanimous vote of 414-0. I'm pleased that today's bill includes an amendment I authored to improve VA hiring of mental health professionals, who are on the front lines of our state's efforts to combat the heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid crisis.

Today's bipartisan vote is an example of the good that can come when Democrats and Republicans work together to improve access to health care for our nation's veterans. I was proud to support this bipartisan bill, which will extend the Veterans Choice Program for six months. It makes much needed investments in the VA and includes several provisions that will help the VA fill its nearly 50,000 open jobs, most of which are in health care.

For months, I have voiced deep concerns about failures in the administration of the Veterans Choice Program by the VA and its contractor, Health Net. In April, I sent a letter to Congressional leadership calling for the reorganization of VA's Community Care programs, including Choice, into a permanent and sustainable program that meets the needs of New

Hampshire veterans. The letter called on Congress to immediately address “problems with access to care as well as the Department’s inability to pay medical claims to community providers in a timely way.” The legislation passed today will provide \$2.1 billion for the Veterans Choice Program, funding the temporary program for another six months while the Veterans Affairs Committees continue work on a permanent solution to streamline and improve access to community providers.

Securing funding to launch a groundwater study for Pease

I’m pleased that I was able to secure an amendment to launch a much-needed national health impact study of groundwater pollution in this week’s appropriations “minibus.” This \$7 million appropriation will be used to launch a national health impact study of sites like Pease affected by the U.S. military’s historic use of perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs).

Our service men and women, veterans, and other constituents who have been exposed to PFCs deserve answers on both the short- and long-term health impacts of these contaminants.

Unsolicited taxpayer-funded Congressional mailings

Earlier this week, I offered an amendment to a House appropriations bill that, if passed, would have restricted the size of taxpayer-funded unsolicited Congressional mailings to the dimensions of a standard postcard.



As Members of Congress, it’s our job to set the standard for responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds, and public resources should not be spent on excessive, campaign style mailers. We can keep constituents informed by sending a simple postcard, without all of the glitz and gloss.

Speaking out against the President’s anti-trans tweets and Boy Scouts speech

This week’s tweets from the President were a disgraceful slap in the face to the thousands of transgender troops who are actively serving our country, and to all transgender Americans who aspire to serve. These troops are patriots who deserve to be appreciated for their service, not used as political props by their Commander in Chief.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I will fight to prevent President Trump's ugly rhetoric against our troops from becoming reality, and to make sure that these troops know that Americans appreciate their service and sacrifice.

Our nation and the Boy Scouts share core values about what it means to be a good citizen. As someone whose family has been involved in Scouting throughout our lives, I was shocked by President Trump's speech at the annual Jamboree, which undermined confidence in core American democratic institutions.

It should disturb all Americans, regardless of their political beliefs, to see the President of the United States address children with ugly rhetoric that fails to meet Boy Scout values. I'm grateful that the Boy Scouts [issued an apology](#) for the President's inappropriate political comments.

Standing up to Putin

I have repeatedly called for quick action on tough sanctions, and I am pleased that the House and Senate this week finally passed a bipartisan agreement to hold Putin accountable for his attacks on democracy, and specifically for his hostile interference in our 2016 election.

The bill that Congress is sending to the President's desk delivers a strong message to Vladimir Putin and his friends: the United States will not tolerate, much less reward, their aggression.

Closing thoughts

Happy 52nd birthday, Medicare and Medicaid!



I enjoyed celebrating with a group of committed advocates who are working with House Democrats to defend Americans' earned benefits. While the Senate bill has been defeated for now, I am still standing guard against any proposal to cut these essential programs.

As always, thank you for the honor of representing you in Congress.

Best wishes,

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol

This week's press releases:

- [Shea-Porter Votes for Veterans Choice Program Funding Extension](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Minibus Appropriations Vote](#)
- [House Adopts Shea-Porter Amendment Authorizing \\$7 Million for PFC Health Study](#)
- [Shea-Porter Offers Amendment Limiting Congressional Mailers to Size of Postcard](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Trump Anti-Trans Tweets](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Russia Sanctions Vote](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on House Republicans' Forced Arbitration Bill](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on President's Speech at Boy Scouts Jamboree](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Senate Health Vote](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Failed House Vote to Extend the Veterans Choice Program](#)
- [House Passes Bill Shea-Porter Co-Introduced to Expand Veterans Education Benefits](#)
- [Shea-Porter Announces \\$3.5 Million Federal Investment in Manchester-Boston Regional Airport](#)

In case you missed it:

- [Union Leader: Frankly speaking: Carol Shea-Porter's good idea](#)
- [AP: House Approves Shea-Porter Pease Drinking Water Study](#)
- [WMUR: NH Primary Source: Shea-Porter blasts Trump's transgender-in-military ban](#)
- [Union Leader: Program to Help Vets Get Health Care Outside VA Nearly Bankrupt](#)
- [Concord Monitor: Tentative deal reached to save Veterans Choice program](#)



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